

BRIDGE AT TONAWANDA, IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

APRIL 24, 1884.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SEYMOUR, from the Committee on Commerce, submitted the following

R E P O R T :

[To accompany bill H. R. 6761.]

*The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 5098) to authorize the construction of a bridge across a branch of the Niagara River to an island, beg leave to report as follows :*

The construction of this bridge is authorized by the laws of the State of New York, subject, of course, to the approval of Congress. The stream across which the proposed bridge is to be built is only some 400 feet in width, and being only a few miles above the Falls of Niagara is not used for the purposes of navigation or commerce. Tonawanda is a very large lumber center, over 50,000,000 feet being handled or manufactured annually. Owing to the growth of this place, the construction of buildings, and the increase of railroads centering there, the lands available for storing, piling, and drying lumber are very limited. This bridge is to reach an island containing about 80 acres of land, on which already some 2,000 feet of wharves have been constructed at private expense. The purpose of this bridge is to enable manufacturers of lumber, whose mills are on the main shore, to take lumber as sawed, or as it comes in vessels in a green state, to this island for piling and curing, and, that done, to load it upon cars for shipment into the interior without being compelled to first load into scows and from them on to cars. We therefore recommend the passage of the accompanying substitute for said bill, which substitute incorporates the suggestions of the Secretary of War, as will appear from the following correspondence :

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington City, March 25, 1884.

SIR: Acknowledging the receipt of H. R. 5098, Forty-eighth Congress, first session, a bill "respecting a bridge at Tonawanda, in the State of New York," referred to this Department, for its views thereon, by the Committee on Commerce, I have the honor to invite attention to the inclosed communication on the subject, dated the 22d instant, from the Chief of Engineers, embodying a report of Capt. Edward Maguire, Engineer officer, at Buffalo, N. Y.

The views expressed in the report of Captain Maguire are concurred in by the Chief of Engineers and by this Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,  
Secretary of War.

Hon. JOHN H. REAGAN,  
Chairman of Committee on Commerce, House of Representatives.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,  
UNITED STATES ARMY,  
*Washington, D. C., March 22, 1884.*

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith H. R. 5098, a bill "respecting a bridge at Tonawanda, in the State of New York," referred from the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives to the War Department for its views, and thence to this office, and in relation thereto to invite attention to the following copy of the report of Capt. Edward Maguire, Corps of Engineers, to whom it was referred, in whose views I concur:

"UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,  
"Buffalo, N. Y., March 18, 1884.

"Respectfully returned to the Chief of Engineers, United States Army.

"Chapter 279 of the laws of the State of New York provides that James R. Smith and Theodore S. Fassett, of the city of Buffalo, with such other persons, not less than three in number, as they may associate with themselves, shall constitute the incorporators of the Tonawanda Island Bridge Company; that the erection of such bridge shall not be commenced until the location thereof is approved by three commissioners, to be appointed by the county judge of the county of Niagara; said bridge shall be constructed with a draw of ample width to give free passage to all vessels navigating that arm of Niagara River.

"I can see no objection to the construction of the proposed bridge, provided that in addition to the draw the height of the lower chord above high water be not less than 23 feet, so as to allow of the passage of tugs without opening the draw.

"I would also suggest that there be inserted in the bill a provision that the bridge shall not be built or commenced until the plan and location of the bridge have been submitted to the Secretary of War and by him approved.

"EDW'D MAGUIRE,  
"Captain of Engineers."

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN NEWTON,  
*Chief of Engineers, Brig. and Bvt. Maj. Gen'l.*

Hon. ROBERT T. LINCOLN,  
*Secretary of War.*